

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY, NAPLES CITY AND UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 20, 2016 at 3:30 pm in the Vernal City Conference room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah.

PRESENT:

UINTAH COUNTY: Commissioners Mark Raymond, Mike McKee and Bill Stringer.

VERNAL CITY: Councilmembers Samantha Scott, Bert Clark, Ted Munford and Mayor Sonja Norton. Councilmembers Dave Everett and Travis Allan were excused.

STAFF: Ken Bassett and Roxanne Behunin.

WELCOME: Commissioner Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve and acknowledge this meeting. Commissioner Mark Raymond seconded the motion. Commissioners McKee, Stringer and Raymond and Councilmembers, Munford, Scott and Clark voted in favor for a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2016: Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2016 with one correction. Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

VERNAL REGIONAL AIRPORT: Commissioner Mark Raymond explained that runway improvements are continuing with considerable headway being made. The drainage has been completed and the contractor is working on the elevations. Mayor Norton questioned if the payment is being received timely from the FAA. Commissioner Raymond answered that it took longer at first, and now the reimbursement is faster. Mayor Norton asked if the piping is sufficient for the storm water. Commissioner McKee stated the design is for a 10-year flood, if the storm is larger, there will be some water collection. This design was what was required by the federal government. Ken Bassett stated that the County Attorney is asking for a change to the Interlocal Agreement for the management of the airport that affects the engineering payment. Commissioner McKee agreed and stated that there are two provisions in the contract that need clarified. The Uintah Transportation District assumed all financial responsibility, with the County paying GDA Engineering and then being reimbursed by the District. A better process would be for the District to pay the expenses and pass the information over to the County to request funding from the FAA. Councilmember Clark asked if the terminal building remodel was completed. Commissioner Stringer stated they are still working on the bathrooms and landscaping. Commissioner McKee noted that the current air travel carrier is the most premier service they have had. Commissioner Stringer stated they need to improve being on-time, as they had equipment malfunctions over the holiday which caused flights to be canceled. The

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hope is that the enplanements will increase with both the Salt Lake City flight and Denver flight. Also, the travel cost to other destinations can be cheaper if flown out of Vernal.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Commissioner McKee explained that at the last meeting this project was not communicated well to the Cities. The County did approach the Community Impact Board for funding and received an 80% grant 20% loan funding package for storm water management in the County. As this project moves forward, the canal companies will be heavily involved, and the County Commission is committed to a strong open process. Councilmember Munford asked what happened as the Commission was clear that this project would not go forward unless the Cities joined the County. He asked what changed. Commissioner McKee stated that initially the County was not going to move forward without support from Vernal City and Naples City. After looking at the project and discussing the storm water needs with the canal companies, it became apparent that the project was still necessary. Councilmember Ted Munford stated it makes it difficult for the Council to know what will happen and to trust what is being presented. Commissioner McKee answered that the Commission, at that time, had no intention to move forward. Councilmember Clark asked if this still needed to be presented to the irrigators. Commissioner McKee stated that if the irrigators choose not to participate then a totally different plan will be needed. The irrigators will put in \$2 million dollars to make the canals accessible. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if additional property will be needed for a wider right-of-way. Commissioner McKee stated the plan is only for the canals, no additional property. He stated the project will utilize the canals for storm water, not pipe the canals. Mayor Norton noted that the City simply could not afford the project, and there was no detailed information to move forward. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if this project will stop at the border of Utah County and is there potential it will flood Vernal City. Commissioner McKee stated that the Cities will get a pretty strong benefit from this project. Commissioner Raymond agreed. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated that the Commission had lively discussions on this issue and came to an understanding to apply for the funding as the CIB loan was an opportunity that possibly would not be available later. There are still significant pieces missing from this project and the public, including Vernal City, will be informed as information becomes available. He noted that what is missing is the impact this project will have and the legalities, as the attorneys raised significant issues that have to be addressed. Also, there may be more expenses, especially for operational costs. Councilmember Munford asked the Commission to keep the Council informed, and possibly the City can help with the project in other ways as this is a challenging problem to address. Commissioner Stringer answered that the City and taxpayers want to be involved. They may be excited about the prospects or may be opposed until they know what is involved. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that the City does not want more indebtedness or fees that would have to be passed on to residents. Commissioner Stringer stated there may be an opportunity to create a cost savings for sewer, or have residents not use culinary water for irrigation. However, there does need to be some value. The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation for the information.

CEMETERY: Mayor Norton asked if any projects are being planned for the cemeteries. Commissioner Mike McKee stated overall the comments for the cemeteries have been positive. Commissioner Bill Stringer noted they did have a water break this year, and areas of the cemetery dried out while that line was being fixed. Grass was installed in some areas which then caused problems with headstones and maintenance. The Dry Fork Cemetery is the most trouble

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free as there is no grass or water. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if personnel were available on Memorial Day to help people find the gravesites. Commissioner Stringer answered yes. Councilmember Bert Clark also if markers had been installed for the water faucets. Commissioner Stringer answered he would check on that. He noted that they have cut back overtime which is a challenge when preparing for big holidays. There was some discussion regarding using community service workers to help with maintenance. Mayor Norton stated she did receive complaints that grave decorations were removed early. She suggested signs be posted at the entrance to the cemeteries notifying visitors when decorations need to be removed. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that overall the cemeteries look nice. There was some discussion regarding alternating the Commissioner corner in the newspaper with the City.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Commissioner Mike McKee explained that tomorrow at least 10 tech companies will be traveling to Uintah County with the idea of looking at the talent pool in the area to hire people to work remotely. This allows workers to live here and still work for companies on the Wasatch Front. UBATC and USU can provide specialized training if the people here are willing to train for these jobs.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING: Councilmember Bert Clark explained that the emergency management training has been scheduled for the morning hours making it difficult for officials working full-time to get away to attend. He asked that in the future they consider scheduling training later in the day.

CONFERENCE CENTER: Commissioner Mike McKee stated he appreciates the City's support of the conference center which is helping the economy. Today, an agricultural conference with higher education, students, and teachers are here for training at the conference center. Commissioner Mark Raymond noted the conference center is completely booked for June. Commissioner Bill Stringer thanked the City for allowing the street to be blocked during the County fair. Councilmember Clark agreed that it was more visible and freed up parking. Mayor Norton stated the Livestock Show had lower participation than in the past, however, the conference center is helping fill hotels and restaurants. Commissioner Stringer stated that the Assessor's conference was held here this year, and they could not remember the last time it was held in Vernal. People are excited to see the area as they do not know what is here. He noted that one problem when using both facilities is the drainage, and they may need to install bridges to help the pedestrian traffic. Ken Bassett stated the planner's conference was a wonderful success as well with the vast majority not having a clue how this area has changed over the years.

BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY: Commissioner Mike McKee stated when the transit system was started there was significant State funding available. That funding is no longer available, and the potential tax to fund the transit system did not pass in Uintah County so that funding is not available. Duchesne County residents did pass the tax so they have a way to fund the system on the West side of the Basin. Mineral lease funds have dropped over \$1 billion dollars so another program cannot be funded with that money via the Uintah Transportation District. The bus system in Vernal is not heavily utilized, so that program may have to be dropped. Commissioner Mark Raymond noted that a specialized segment of the population uses the Vernal loop such as the disabled so they may be able to provide transportation to them through

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other means. The cost for the Vernal loop is \$240,000 a year. Mayor Norton asked if there is any grant funding available to help this special segment of the population. Commissioner Raymond stated they were not aware of any. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated possibly a Main Street route can be done with travel and tourism by charging the hotels for any stops. Ken Bassett asked how many buses are running. Commissioner Raymond stated there is one bus running at any given time that completes a loop in 45 minutes. Councilmember Munford stated it would be a wise choice to stop the bus since there is a legitimate reason. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated the funding would be redirected to provide transportation for special needs. Ken Bassett stated that as the City applies for funding for low income housing projects, one thing that does increase points is having a transit system. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated it is good to have this discussion so all the factors are known. He asked that Naples City be invited to the next meeting so this issue could be discussed with them.

ATV JAMBOREE: Commissioner Stringer stated that the ATV Jamboree will be in Vernal and is under the sponsorship of the County. Specific hotels have been designated where the participants can park, unload and drive from there to the trail head. Trail leaders will help once they get to the trail. Ken Bassett stated the Council is supportive of this event, however the ATV's must be street legal. Commissioner Stringer stated they are using a permitting process similar to a parade, so even if the motorized vehicle is not street legal, it can be used for a specific purpose. Ken Bassett asked if the County would be passing an ordinance to allow with a permit. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated yes if needed. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated that at the Dinosaur monument there is a State road that has given authorization for one of their rides escorted by a park ranger.

NEXT MEETING: After discussion, the consensus was to hold the next meeting on July 18, 2016 at 3:30 pm.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to adjourn. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.

Kenneth L Bassett, City Recorder